GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1158
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
JOINT REGISTRATION OF BASMATI RICE
Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy Shri

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan met recently in Delhi to consider Joint Registration of Basmati Rice as a Geographical Indicator;

(b) if so, the details alongwith other issues discussed and outcome thereof;

(c) whether there were any differences of opinion between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to sort out those differences?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) The Fourth Round of India-Pakistan talks at Commerce-Secretary level on Economic and Commercial Cooperation within the framework of the Composite Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 31 July-1 August 2007,and the issue relating to Joint Registration of Basmati Rice as Geographical Indication was, inter alia, discussed.

(b) The Indian side recalled that during the third round of Composite Dialogue held in Islamabad on 28-29 March, 2006 both sides had decided to constitute a Working Group to discuss this issue and in pursuance of which India had constituted its Working Group whereas Pakistan was yet to nominate its representatives to the Working Group. Pakistan side agreed to nominate representatives to the Joint Working Group and both sides agreed that the Group will meet at an early date.

(c)to(e) The Pakistan side raised the issue of Notification issued by India declaring `Super Basmati rice` as an approved variety for export claiming that Super Basmati was an exclusive Pakistani variety of rice.The Indian side agreed to look in to this issue.